

## Conservation Element Bundle Evaluation Criteria

### *Biological Criteria*

1. Relative degree to which the Option would reduce species mortality attributable to non-natural mortality sources, in order to enhance production (reproduction, growth, survival), abundance, and distribution for each of the covered fish species (BDCP Conservation Objective).
2. Relative degree to which the Option would provide water quality and flow conditions necessary to enhance production (reproduction, growth, survival), abundance, and distribution for each of the covered fish species (BDCP Conservation Objective).
3. Relative degree to which the Option would increase habitat quality, quantity, accessibility, and diversity in order to enhance and sustain production (reproduction, growth, survival), abundance, and distribution; and to improve the resiliency of each of the covered species' populations to environmental change and variable hydrology (BDCP Conservation Objective).
4. Relative degree to which the Option would increase food quality, quantity, and accessibility (e.g., phytoplankton, zooplankton, macro-invertebrates, forage fish) to enhance production (reproduction, growth, survival) and abundance for each of the covered fish species (BDCP Conservation Objective).
5. Relative degree to which the Option would reduce the abundance of non-native competitors and predators to increase native species production (reproduction, growth, survival), abundance and distribution for each of the covered fish species (BDCP Conservation Objective).
6. Relative degree to which the Option improves ecosystem processes in the BDCP planning area to support aquatic and associated habitats (BDCP Conservation Objective).
7. Relative degree to which the Option can be implemented within a timeframe to meet the near-term needs of each covered fish species (post BDCP authorization).

### *Planning Criteria*

8. Relative degree to which the Option allows covered activities to be implemented in a way that meets the goals and purposes of those activities.
9. The relative feasibility and practicability of the Option, including the ability to fund, engineer, and implement.

10. Relative costs (including infrastructure, operations, and management) associated with implementing the Option.

*Flexibility/Durability/Sustainability Criteria*

11. Relative degree to which the Option will be able to withstand the effects of climate change (e.g., sea level rise, changes in runoff), variable hydrology, seismic events, subsidence of Delta islands, and other large-scale changes to the Delta.
12. Relative degree to which the Option could improve ecosystem processes that support the long term needs of each of the covered species and their habitats with minimal future input of resources.
13. Relative degree to which the Option can be adapted to address needs of covered fish species over time.
14. Relative degree of reversibility of the Option once implemented.

*Other Resource Impacts Criteria*

15. Relative degree to which the Option avoids impacts on the distribution and abundance of other native species in the BDCP Planning Area.
16. Relative degree to which the Option avoids impacts on the human environment.
17. Relative degree of risk of the Option causing impacts on sensitive species and habitats in areas outside of the BDCP Planning Area.